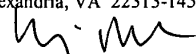


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

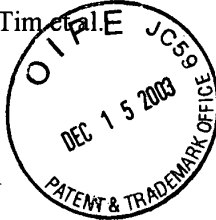
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 11, 2003.

Signed: 
Kimberly Melvin

Attorney Ref. No. NRCAP003
PATENT

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant: POON, Alex Ka Tim et al.
Application No.: 09/876,431
Filed: June 6, 2001
Title: Dual Force Mode Fine Stage Apparatus



Examiner: BROWN, Khaled
Group Art Unit: 2877

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BEFORE MAILING
DATE OF EITHER A FINAL
OFFICE ACTION OR NOTICE OF
ALLOWANCE (37 CFR 1.97(c))**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449, copies of which are attached, may be material to examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit these references in compliance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97. The Examiner is requested to make these citations of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that these references indeed constitute prior art.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, or after three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application, whichever event occurred last, but it is believed, before the mailing date of either (1) a final action under §1.113 or (2) a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.

Enclosed is a check for the fee of \$180.00 due under 37 CFR §1.17(p). If Commissioner determines that additional fees are required for filing the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to our deposit account number 50-1652 (Order No. NRCAP003).

12/17/2003 EAREGAY1 00000060 09876431

01 FC:1806

180.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,



- Peggy A. Su
Registration No. 41,336

RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP
12930 Saratoga Ave., Suite D1
Saratoga, CA 95070
(408) 446-8690

| | | |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|
| Form 1449 (Modified) Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant (Use Several Sheets if Necessary) | Atty Docket No. | NRCAP003 |
| | Application No.: | 09/876,431 |
| | Inventor | Alex Ka Tim Poon et al. |
| | Group | 2851 |
| | Filing Date | June 6, 2001 |
| | Mailing Date | December 11, 2003 |

U.S. Patent or Published Documents

| Examiner Initial | No. | Patent No. | Date | Patentee | Class | Sub-Class | Filing Date |
|------------------|-----|--------------|------------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| | A | 5,841,250 | 11/24/1998 | Korenage et al. | 318 | 135 | 10/3/1996 |
| | B | 6,570,645 | 05/27/2003 | Korenaga et al. | 355 | 75 | 7/26/1999 |
| | C | 2003/0007140 | 01/09/2003 | Korenaga | 355 | 72 | 7/3/2002 |
| | | | | | | | |

Foreign Patent or Published Foreign Patent Application

| Examiner Initial | No. | Document No. | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class | Sub-class | Translation | |
|------------------|-----|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

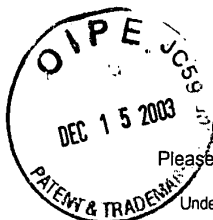
Other Documents

| Examiner Initial | No. | Author, Title, Date, Place (e.g. Journal) of Publication |
|------------------|-----|--|
| | | |
| | | |

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Examiner | Date Considered |
|----------|-----------------|

Examiner: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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AF 12877

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PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

Approved for use through 8/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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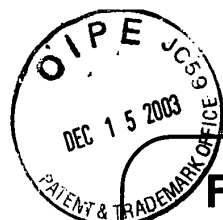
| | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i> | Application Number | 09/876,431 |
| | Filing Date | June 6, 2001 |
| | First Named Inventor | POON, Alex Ka Tim et al. |
| | Group Art Unit | 2877 |
| | Examiner Name | BROWN, Khaled |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | Attorney Docket Number | NRCAP003 |

| ENCLOSURES (check all that apply) | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Postcard <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
| Remarks | | The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-1652. |
| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | | |
| Firm and Individual name | RITTER, LANG & KAPLAN LLP Peggy A. Su, Reg. No. 41,336 | |
| Signature | | |
| Date | December 11, 2003 | |

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| | | December 11, 2003 |
| Typed or printed name | Kimberly Melvin | |
| Signature | | Date December 11, 2003 |

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PTO/SB/17 (10-03)

Approved for use through 7/31/2006. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2003

Effective 01/01/03. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)**180.00**

Complete if Known

Application Number 09/876,431

Filing Date June 6, 2001

First Named Inventor POON, Alex Ka Tim et al.

Examiner Name BROWN, Khaled

Group Art Unit 2877

Attorney Docket No. NRCAP003

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)
☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ MoneyOrder ☐ Other ☐ None
☐ Deposit Account:

Deposit
Account
Number

50-1652

Deposit
Account
Name

Ritter, Lang & Kaplan LLP

The Commissioner is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Credit any overpayments
☐ Charge any additional fee(s) during the pendency of this application
☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee
to the above-identified deposit account.

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

| Large Entity | | Small Entity | | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | |
| 1001 | 770 | 2001 | 385 | Utility filing fee | |
| 1002 | 340 | 2002 | 170 | Design filing fee | |
| 1003 | 530 | 2003 | 265 | Plant filing fee | |
| 1004 | 770 | 2004 | 385 | Reissue filing fee | |
| 1005 | 160 | 2005 | 80 | Provisional filing fee | |

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Extra Fee from below Fee Paid
Total Claims -20** = X =
Independent Claims -3** = X =
Multiple Dependent X =

| Large Entity | | Small Entity | | Fee Description |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|--|
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | |
| 1202 | 18 | 2202 | 9 | Claims in excess of 20 |
| 1201 | 86 | 2201 | 43 | Independent claims in excess of 3 |
| 1203 | 290 | 2203 | 145 | Multiple dependent claim, if not paid |
| 1204 | 86 | 2204 | 43 | ** Reissue independent claims over original patent |
| 1205 | 18 | 2205 | 9 | ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent |

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

| Large Entity | | Small Entity | | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|--|----------|
| Fee Code | Fee (\$) | Fee Code | Fee (\$) | | |
| 1051 | 130 | 2051 | 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | |
| 1052 | 50 | 2052 | 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet. | |
| 1053 | 130 | 1053 | 130 | Non-English specification | |
| 1812 | 2,520 | 1812 | 2,520 | For filing a request for reexamination | |
| 1804 | 920* | 1804 | 920* | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action | |
| 1805 | 1,840* | 1805 | 1,840* | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | |
| 1251 | 110 | 2251 | 55 | Extension for reply within first month | |
| 1252 | 420 | 2252 | 210 | Extension for reply within second month | |
| 1253 | 950 | 2253 | 475 | Extension for reply within third month | |
| 1254 | 1,480 | 2254 | 740 | Extension for reply within fourth month | |
| 1255 | 2,010 | 2255 | 1,005 | Extension for reply within fifth month | |
| 1401 | 330 | 2401 | 165 | Notice of Appeal | |
| 1402 | 330 | 2402 | 165 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal | |
| 1403 | 290 | 2403 | 145 | Request for oral hearing | |
| 1451 | 1,510 | 1451 | 1,510 | Petition to institute a public use proceeding | |
| 1452 | 110 | 2452 | 55 | Petition to revive - unavoidable | |
| 1453 | 1,330 | 2453 | 665 | Petition to revive - unintentional | |
| 1501 | 1,330 | 2501 | 665 | Utility issue fee (or reissue) | |
| 1502 | 480 | 2502 | 240 | Design issue fee | |
| 1503 | 640 | 2503 | 320 | Plant issue fee | |
| 1460 | 130 | 1460 | 130 | Petitions to the Commissioner | |
| 1807 | 50 | 1807 | 50 | Petitions related to provisional applications | |
| 1806 | 180 | 1806 | 180 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt | 180.00 |
| 8021 | 40 | 8021 | 40 | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | |
| 1809 | 770 | 2809 | 385 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a)) | |
| 1810 | 770 | 2810 | 385 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b)) | |
| 1801 | 770 | 2801 | 385 | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) | |
| 1802 | 900 | 1802 | 900 | Request for expedited examination of a design application | |

Other fee (specify)-----

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3)

(\$)**180.00**

SUBMITTED BY

Complete (if applicable)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Peggy A. Su | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 41,336 | Telephone | (408) 446-8690 |
| Signature | | Date | December 11, 2003 | | |

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.27. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimate to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting this completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.